

WOMEN OF MARTINIQUE.

Their Love of Gay Colors is Exemplified in the Variegated Costumes They Wear.

The women of St. Pierre, who only a few days ago were leading a happy, butterfly life, are said to have been strikingly picturesque, and even beautiful. A writer in the New York Tribune says of them:

"Their love of color is the passionate fondness for brightness of all the races from which they spring—negro, French and Indian. Fashions change not at all from decade to decade, and the only difference between the dress of the richer class and the poor is a matter of quality, except in the case of the women who act as carriers of fruit and vegetables.

"These wear a simple garment, not unlike an Empire gown, made with a good deal of fullness and drawn up under the giraffe in such a way as to leave the limbs free. This gown is always of some vivid hue, with which the golden tint of the skin contrasts exquisitely, and as the women are beautifully formed, the effect is that of draped statuary.

"In the well-to-do class the same passion for color is shown. Over a loose, white linen garment, richly embroidered with full, flowing sleeves, a gown is worn that is much like that just described, but is of silk or fine muslin. Crimson, yellow, blue or green may be the ground color, on which brilliant flowers of vividly contrasting shades are painted. This is caught up by a silk sash to a comfortable walking length, and a long scarf of thin silk is draped coquettishly around the shoulders. The costume is completed by a kerchief of gay colors, tied about the head with a conspicuous bow on top, and frequently a large jeweled brooch at each side of the fastening.

"The women have a stately carriage that I have never seen surpassed. Whether bearing a basket of cakes or fruit on the head, to be sold at the shops and houses, or sauntering down to the water to be rowed about for amusement, their dignity of manner and statuesque beauty of form are fascinating in the extreme.

"The better class has some education, and the women study a little music and embroidery exquisitely by way of accomplishments. They have musical voices, and sing and little creole songs or gay French chansons very prettily.

"They are a cleanly people, and utilize the mountain streams to keep the streets clean, as well as for baths. One of the 'show' places is the great shower bath in the court of the almshouse. The force of the water from the mountain height is immense, and the baths are frequented by many besides the inmates of the houses.

"The white population is only a few thousands, so that the only impression that one derives from the street throngs is that of the native population, with its colors and brightness. The two do not mingle in any way, as there are enough of the whites to form a charming society, and the natives are perfectly content to be ignored socially."

PHOTOGRAPHS ON FABRICS.

Latest Process for Printing Pictures Upon Handkerchiefs and Other Articles.

Photographs on various kinds of fabrics, such as linen and silk, are becoming notably popular, and some of them are decidedly decorative, being used for pillow covers, handkerchiefs and numerous other articles of domestic or personal usefulness.

The Philadelphia Saturday Evening Post. The latest patent in this line has been granted for a process which involves the use of a certain kind of seaweed, an extract of which is made by saturating the plant in water. Citric acid and ammonium chloride are added to this aqueous extract, and the fabric designed for photographic printing is saturated with the stuff. The article—suppose that it is a handkerchief, for example—is then dried, after which it is soaked in a solution of nitrate of silver and again dried.

The handkerchief, or other article, presents a surface that is sensitive to light. All that is necessary is to place it beneath a negative in a printing frame, just as if it were a piece of printing-out paper, and in a few minutes you have your picture. Of course, the fabric has to go through the customary toning and fixing baths, with incidental washings in water, after which the picture is finished and permanent.

Provided with the simple and inexpensive solutions required for the purpose, anybody ought to be able to prepare sensitized linen or silk for himself, the operations being necessarily performed in the dark room.

Hitching Automobiles.

It has come at last—the hitching-post for the automobile. Ordinary iron hitching-posts are used, or rings in the sidewalk; and the hitching-ropes, which no automobile should be without, is a wire cable with a padlock. So many persons have learned to operate these machines that it is now considered unsafe to leave them free and unwatched in the streets.—N. Y. Post.

Something That Would Cut. Delegate Rodey, of New Mexico, whose fund of good stories is exhaustless, related this incident in the cloak-room yesterday.

"I was traveling through the west a couple of years ago," he said, "when our train stopped at an eating place for dinner. The woman who kept the place was evidently an easterner, and was quite anxious to spread around her the cultured habits of her section. 'Will you please give me a knife for my pie?' said one of the men eating dinner.

"We don't eat pie with a knife here," replied the woman, quite severely. "Then, madam," remarked the cowboy, quite unabashed, "will you please get me an ax?"—Washington Post.

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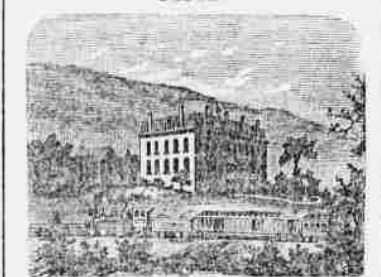
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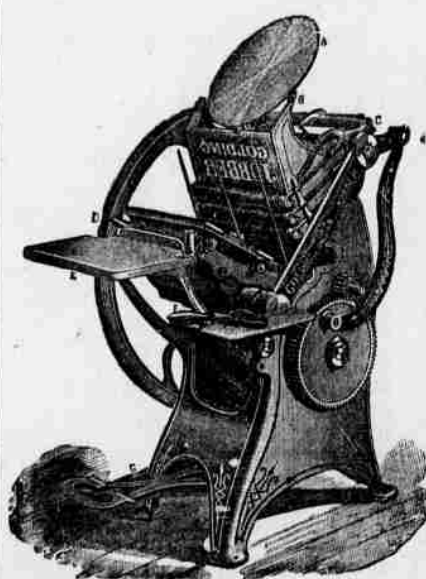
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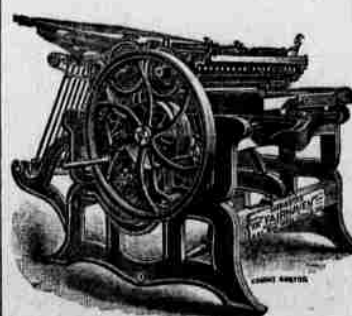
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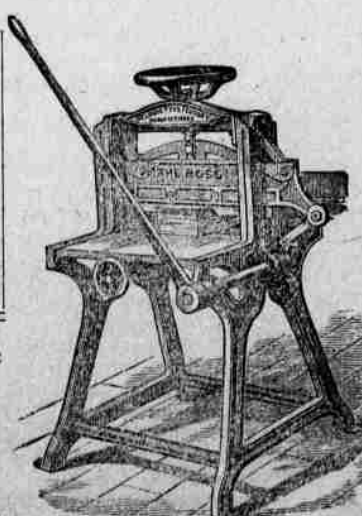


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